

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OPORTO 00247 121230Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 /066 W  
-----087825 121239Z /44

P 120930Z SEP 78  
FM AMCONSUL OPORTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1140  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OPORTO 0247

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PO  
SUBJECT: LOCAL ELECTION: VOTERS GO TO POLLS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1976

1. PSD ELECTORAL VICTORY. ON SEPTEMBER 10, THE VOTERS IN MIRANDELA COUNTY, VILA REAL DISTRICT, WENT TO THE POLLS TO ELECT A NEW MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT. THE LAST COUNTY ELECTION WAS HELD IN 1976. THE PSD EMERGED AS THE UNDISPUTED WINNER WITH OVER 51 PERCENT OF THE VOTE:

	1978	1976
PSD (SOCIAL DEMOCRATS)	51PCT	30PCT
CDS (CENTER DEMOCRATS)	15PCT	32PCT
ALLIANCE OF THE PEOPLE UNITED (APU)		
(A COMMUNIST ELECTORAL FRONT)	14PCT	7.5PCT
PS (SOCIALISTS)	14PCT	27PCT

2. ABSENTEEISM RUNS HIGH. OVER 59 PERCENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS IN MIRANDELA DID NOT VOTE. THE FIGURE FOR 1976 WAS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 42 PERCENT. THE NORTHERN PRESS HAS BEEN QUICK TO INTERPRET THE LOW VOTER TURNOUT AS AN INDICATION OF VOTER APATHY AND DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OPORTO 00247 121230Z

HOWEVER, VOTING LISTS HAVE NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE 1976. REGISTERED VOTERS WHO DIED, MOVED AWAY, OR BECAME TOO OLD TO GET TO THE VOTING BOOTH UNDOUBTEDLY REDUCED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO VOTED. THE LACK OF REVISED VOTING LISTS ALSO PREVENTED FROM VOTING AN ESTIMATED 4,000 PEOPLE WHO REACHED VOTING AGE AFTER THE COMPILATION OF THE LAST VOTING LISTS IN 1976.

3. BIG-NAME CAMPAIGNERS. BOTH THE PSD AND THE PS NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CAMPAIGNED ACTIVELY IN MIRANDELA. PSD PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO TOURED EXTENSIVELY THROUGH THE COUNTY FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION. SEVERAL WELL-KNOWN PS LEADERS ALSO CAMPAIGNED THERE. ON SEPTEMBER 7, ANTONIO ARNAULT (EX-MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS), SOUSA GOMES (EX-SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATION), AND RAUL REGO SPOKE BEFORE A PS RALLY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THEIR COMMENTS WERE GENERALLY FOCUSSED ON NATIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT EANES AND WHAT THEY CALLED A DANGEROUS DRIFT TOWARD "PATERNALISM AND PRESIDENTIALISM." THE CDS AND THE APU FIELDDED NO NATIONAL LEADERS AND THEIR CANDIDATES STRESSED THE IDEA OF LOCAL ANSWERS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS.

4. COMMENT. THE ELECTION IN MIRANDELA WAS THE FIRST COUNTY ELECTION TO BE HELD IN PORTUGAL SINCE 1976. THE NORTHERN PRESS CLAIMS THE RESULTS ARE A BAROMETER OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND A PREVIEW OF FUTURE NATIONAL ELECTIONS. SUCH A CONCLUSION IS EXAGGERATED. MIRANDELA IS AN ISOLATED AND POOR FARMING REGION. A TOTAL OF ONLY 7432 PEOPLE VOTED IN THE ELECTIONS. IT WOULD BE FARFETCHED TO FORECAST FUTURE ELECTIONS BASED ON SUCH A SMALL AND ATYPICAL ELECTORAL SAMPLE. NEVERTHELESS, THE NORTHERN PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE MIRANDELA ELECTION. THIS IN EFFECT HAS GIVEN IT A PSYCHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE WHICH DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO ITS INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE. THE PSD IS BOUND TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE SURPRISING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 OPORTO 00247 121230Z

STRENGTH OF ITS SHOWING. ONE CDS OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS WERE BAD FOR THE CDS WHICH SHOULD HAVE CAMPAIGNED MORE ACTIVELY. HE ALSO (PREDICTABLY) CASTIGATED THE PS FOR CAMPAIGNING ON ITS RIGHT FLANK INSTEAD OF ITS LEFT, THUS PERMITTING A COMMUNIST FRONT (APU) TO GAIN A SEAT ON THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. HARRINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, LOCAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978OPORTO00247  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780370-0427  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** OPORTO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780977/aaaacght.tel  
**Line Count:** 100  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** eed35b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1468275  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOCAL ELECTION: VOTERS GO TO POLLS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1976  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/eed35b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014